



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release AUGUST 3, 1960

DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR NEW FISH FARMING EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Appointment of Dr. James H. Stevenson of Little Rock, Arkansas, to direct the new fish farming research program of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, was announced today by Bureau Director Daniel H. Janzen.

Dr. Stevenson will be in charge of the Bureau's research program into many of the problems of raising fish in conjunction with the growing of rice and other agriculture crops. Some of the problems to be worked out include effects of water quality and levels; control of aquatic vegetation; overpopulation; predation; intrusion of unwanted species of wild fish; disease and parasite infestations; proper stocking levels; nutritional requirements along with feeding materials and methods; spawning requirements and methods of controlling or inducing spawning; and brood stock selection.

The two tracts of land acquired by the Bureau for the fish farming experiments total 296 acres. One of the purchased tracts comprises 85 acres immediately adjacent to the University of Arkansas' Rice Branch Experiment Station near Stuttgart. The second tract, which is of a different soil type, is 211 acres adjoining the University's Southeast Branch Experiment Station at Kelso.

The Stuttgart property will have a modern laboratory, fish holding facilities, a building for shop, garage and storage, a reservoir of about 30 acres, and experimental ponds ranging from one-tenth acre to one acre in surface area. The Kelso land has a high producing well and an adequate surface water supply. Well established levees have been constructed on three sides of 160 acres of the plot. Five, ten, and twenty-acre reservoirs are planned for the site.

Dr. Stevenson, who was formerly head of the Department of Zoology at Little Rock University and biologist for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, recently returned from a five-month assignment with the International Cooperation Administration to advise the government of Pakistan on development of its inland fisheries.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Stevenson received his doctorate from Oklahoma State University. He is a member of the American Fisheries Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Men of Science, and Who's Who in American Education. He is the author of many scientific papers and reports.

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